

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /066 W

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R 141756Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4943

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 26801

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: FORMER PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC MAKES  
POLITICAL REENTRY

SUMMARY. CHIRAC MADE HIS POLITICAL REENTRY ON SEPTEMBER 13 WITH A STATEMENT THAT SURPRISED MOST OBSERVERS BY ITS CONCILIATORY TONE. HE PLANS TO DIRECT ALL HIS ENERGIES TOWARDS BEATING THE LEFT IN FORTHCOMING MUNICIPAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. THOUGH SOME COMMENTATORS SEE HIS REMARKS AS EVIDENCE OF A GROWING RIFT IN THE UDR PARTY ITSELF, UDR SECRETARY GENERAL YVES GUENA DECLARED SHORTLY AFTER CHIRAC'S STATEMENT THAT THE PARTY AND CHIRAC WERE IN ACCORD. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SEPTEMBER 13 FORMER PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC MADE HIS FIRST OFFICIAL STATEMENT SINCE STEPPING DOWN AS HEAD OF GOF NINETEEN DAYS AGO. HIS TERSE STATEMENT, REPRODUCED BELOW IN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION, CAME AS A SURPRISE, SINCE MOST OBSERVERS WERE EXPECTING OCTOBER 11, THE DATE WHEN HE WOULD RUN IN A LEGISLATIVE BY-

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BER 11, THE DATE WHEN HE WOULD RUN IN A LEGISLATIVE BY-

ELECTION IN HIS HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE CORREZE, AS THE TIME WHEN HE WOULD MAKE HIS COMEBACK. HIS STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE IN THE 18 MONTHS TO COME FRENCHMEN WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE THEIR DESTINY. RARELY HAS SO MUCH BEEN AT STAKE IN LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. IN ORDER TO AVOID IN OUR COUNTRY THE ADVENTURE AND THE CONSTRAINTS OF COLLECTIVISM, ALL THOSE WHO ARE ATTACHED TO OUR SOCIETY OF FREEDOM AND PROGRESS SHOULD JOIN TOGETHER AND, ACTING ABOVE PARTY AFFILIATIONS, UNITE AND FORGET THE QUARRELS OF THE PAST. AS FOR ME, NOW FREED OF ALL GOVERNMENTAL DUTIES, BUT FAITHFUL TO OUR INSTITUTIONS OF WHICH THE HEAD OF STATE IS THE GUARANTOR, FAITHFUL ALSO TO THE MAJORITY THAT SUPPORTS THESE INSTITUTIONS, I AM RESOLVED TO TURN ALL MY EFFORTS TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS ENTERPRISE. IN ORDER TO DO THIS, I WILL SOON TAKE THE NECESSARY INITIATIVES. END QUOTE

2. CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM CHIRAC'S SPEECH IS ANY MENTION OF THE NAME GISCARD D'ESTAING. NEVERTHELESS, CHIRAC HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE MORE CONCILIATORY THAN WAS EXPECTED. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THIS STATEMENT ON "TAKING NECESSARY INITIATIVES" WILL GET HIM INTO DIFFICULTY WITH THE DE FACTO COORDINATOR OF THE MAJORITY OLIVIER GUICHARD, MINISTER OF JUSTICE. THAT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, FOR SO LONG AS CHIRAC CONTINUES TO SHOW HIMSELF SO ACCOMMODATING, SO LONG AS HE CONCENTRATES THE BULK OF HIS ENERGY ON PREPARATIONS FOR BEATING THE LEFT IN FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS RATHER THAN ON UNDERMINING THE POLICIES OF HIS FORMER BOSS, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT GUICHARD WILL TAKE ISSUE WITH ANY FUTURE ACTIONS CHIRAC MAY UNDERTAKE.

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /066 W

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R 141756Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4944  
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 26801

3. YVES GUENA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UDR, REMARKED SHORTLY AFTER CHIRAC'S STATEMENT THAT THERE WAS NO DIVERGENCE BETWEEN CHIRAC'S DECLARATIONS AND THE PARTY'S WAY OF SEEING THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. IN CERTAIN RESPECTS IT IS TOO SIMPLISTIC TO DISMISS CHIRAC'S REMARKS AS EVIDENCE OF A GROWING BATTLE BETWEEN THE BARONS AND THE "YOUNG WOLVES". WE MAY EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT TIME, AND DISTANCE FROM ONE ANOTHER'S CONFLICTING PERSONALITIES, MAY GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS REPAIRING THE BREACH BETWEEN GISCARD AND CHIRAC WHO ARE, AFTER ALL, MEN OF THE SAME OVERALL POLITICAL MOLD AND WHOSE QUARRELS WERE MORE OVER TACTICS THAN SUBSTANCE. THE QUESTION REMAINS, HOWEVER, WHAT CHIRAC WILL DO UPON REENTERING THE ASSEMBLY -- GENERALLY CONSIDERED AT THIS POINT A GIVEN FACTOR IN HIS POLITICAL FUTURE. THERE HAS BEEN TALK THAT HE WOULD REPLACE EDGAR FAURE AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.  
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BLY, OR CLAUDE LABBE AS PRESIDENT OF THE UDR GROUP, OR EVEN YVES GUENA AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARTY. IT IS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL THAT, WERE HIS REMARK AN ATTEMPT TO ASSERT THE SUPREMACY OF THE YOUNG WOLVES OVER THE BARONS, THE UDR WOULD SIT BACK AND TOLERATE SUCH AN ATTEMPT ON ITS UNITY. CHIRAC'S POLITICAL NOSE IS TOO GOOD TO GET HIM IN THAT KIND OF SITUATION. ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN HIS OFFICE OPPOSITE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HE IS GOING TO MAKE HIMSELF HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, WHATEVER POLITICAL ACTIONS HE DECIDES TO TAKE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, POLITICAL PARTIES, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, COMMUNISTS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PARTY MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PARIS26801  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760346-1098  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FORMER PRIME MINISTER JACQUES CHIRAC MAKES POLITICAL REENTRY SUMMARY. CHIRAC MADE HIS POLITICAL REENTRY ON SEP  
**TAGS:** PINT, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006